

Fort Columbia, a 593-acre park rich in history and natural beauty, is one of the most intact coastal defense sites in the United States. The fort was constructed between 1896 and 1904 to support Fort Stevens and Fort Canby in defense of the Columbia River. Fort Columbia became a state park in 1950, five years after WWII ended, when the U.S military declared the fort surplus and transferred it into the custody of the state of Washington.

Military history

In the early 1900s, Fort Columbia was the scene of much military activity. Men trained continuously to be ready to protect the mouth of the Columbia River from enemy attack. Today, visitors still can see many of the original buildings and gun emplacements.

Park visitors can learn about local military history at the interpretive center (formerly an enlisted men's barracks) through exhibits and a video program.



Washington State Parks restored much of the barracks to its original 1902 appearance by refinishing floors, repainting walls and replacing electrical fixtures. State Parks also set a mess hall table with period silver and china. The kitchen is equipped with three coal-fired ranges, an oak refrigerator, utensils and other artifacts.

The Commanding Officer's Quarters now serves as a period museum with furnishings that depict a time when the fort was an active military post. The museum portrays a typical upper-middle-class military residence at the turn of the 19th century.

Fort Columbia also offers a self-guided park tour with interpretation of various features, including historic gun emplacements. Battery 246 is comprised of a concrete structure built into the hillside and two six-inch cannons. There are only four other similar cannons that exist in the world.

Rent a unique vacation house

Enjoy a home with modern amenities at Fort Columbia's Steward's House and Scarborough House. The recently rehabilitated houses recall the days when Fort Columbia was established in the late 19th century and offer spectacular views



Scarborough House

of the Columbia River. The Steward's House can accommodate up to four people, and the Scarborough House can accommodate up to 12 people. To make a reservation up to nine months in advance, call (888) 226-7688.



Steward's House

Fort Columbia State Park
P.O. Box 488
Ilwaco, WA 98624
(360) 642-3662

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650
(360) 902-8500
www.parks.wa.gov




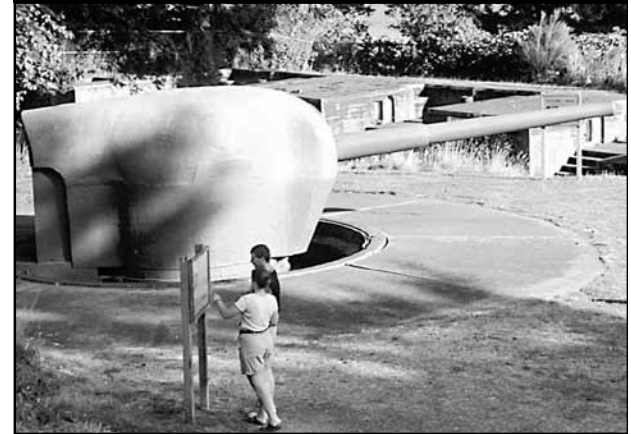
Commission members:

Patricia T. Lantz Joe Taller
Fred Olson Cecilia Vogt
Rodger Schmitt Lucinda S. Whaley
Eliot Scull

Agency director: Rex Derr

All Washington state parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all people.

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Fort Columbia State Park

Heritage Site



A HISTORIC WALK AT FORT COLUMBIA

Use this map to guide you in your exploration of the historic grounds of Fort Columbia State Park. Outdoor interpretive panels near the gun batteries and other historic structures illustrate how the fort operated like a remote, small town that experienced technological changes between the world wars. The walk is approximately .5 mile.

1. **Barracks** (interpretive center)
2. **Administrative Building**
3. **Commissioned Officers' Quarters**
4. **Commanding Officer's Quarters**
5. **Hospital** (Scarborough House, vacation rental)
6. **Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters**
7. **Maintenance Shop**
8. **Firehouse** (maintenance shop)
9. **Doctor's House** (vacant lot)
10. **Hospital Steward's House** (vacation rental)
11. **Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters**
12. **Guard House** (public restrooms)
13. **Ordnance Storehouse** (day-use rental)

